

Amendment to Abstract.

~~This invention consists of~~ An apparatus and a method for removing air from a collapsible plastic structure having known characteristics of flexibility and curvature. The apparatus is a hollow cylindrical plastic tubing having interior and exterior surfaces, the interior surface defining a flow path for a fluid. The exterior surface of the tubing is formed to have a selected number of ridges defining valleys there between, the ridges extending [[a]]for a selected length of the tubing. A plurality of perforations are formed in the valleys, and extend a selected length of the tubing for providing a plurality of additional flow paths to the interior of the tubing.